

What is claimed is:

1. A method for providing an improved interface to a caller during the initiation of a

VoIP call comprising:

placing, by the caller, a request for information regarding a party to be called;

5 returning a URL responsive to said request; and

displaying to said caller one or more connection options corresponding to said
URL.

2. The method of claim 1, further including the act of choosing, by said caller, at least one of said one or more connection options.

10 3. The method of claim 2, further including the act of placing a call responsive to said one or more connection options chosen by said caller.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said act of placing, by the caller, a request for information regarding a party to be called further includes the act of entering a phone number into an originating phone.

15 5. The method of claim 4, further including the act routing said entered phone number from said originating phone to a protocol server.

6. The method of claim 5, further including the act of routing said phone number from said protocol server to a mapping service.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein said act of returning a URL responsive to said request further includes the act of mapping, by a mapping service, said request to a URL.

5 8. The method of claim 7, further including the act of providing said URL to a protocol server.

9. The method of claim 8, further including the act of providing said URL by said protocol server to an originating phone.

10 10. The method of claim 1, wherein said act of displaying to said caller one or more connection options corresponding to said URL further includes the act of accessing said URL through a protocol server.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein said act of displaying to said caller one or more connection options corresponding to said URL further includes the act of accessing a web page corresponding to said URL.

12. The method of claim 2, wherein said one or more connection options are encoded using SIP.

15 13. The method of claim 2, wherein said one or more connection options correspond to a user's identity.

14. The method of claim 2, wherein said one or more connection options correspond to a user's phone number.

15. The method of claim 2, wherein said one or more connection options correspond to a user's location.

5 16. The method of claim 2, wherein said one or more connection options correspond to a user's schedule.

17. The method of claim 2, wherein said one or more connection options are modified by group scheduling software to correspond to a particular user's schedule.

10 18. The method of claim 3, wherein the act of placing a call responsive to said one or more connection options chosen by said caller further includes the act of routing a session request corresponding to said connection option to a protocol server.

19. The method of claim 18, further including the act of routing said session request by said protocol server to a mapping service.

15 20. The method of claim 3, further including the act of executing said selected connection option.

21. The method of claim 20, further including the act of returning an appropriate phone number to said caller by a protocol server.

22. The method of claim 21, further including the act of initiating a call by said protocol server, said call corresponding to said selected connection option.

23. A device for providing an improved interface to a caller during the initiation of a VoIP call comprising:

5 means for placing, by the caller, a request for information regarding a party to be called;

means for returning a URL responsive to said request; and

means for displaying to said caller one or more connection options corresponding to said URL.

10 24. The device of claim 23, further including means for choosing, by said caller, at least one of said one or more connection options.

25. The device of claim 24, further including means for placing a call responsive to said one or more connection options chosen by said caller.

26. The device of claim 23, wherein said means for placing, by the caller, a request for 15 information regarding a party to be called further includes means for entering a phone number into an originating phone.

27. The device of claim 26, further including means for routing said entered phone number from said originating phone to a protocol server.

28. The device of claim 27, further including means for routing said phone number from said protocol server to a mapping service.

29. The device of claim 23, further including means for mapping, by a mapping service, said request to a URL.

5 30. The device of claim 29, further including means for providing said URL to a protocol server.

31. The device of claim 30, further including means for providing said URL by said protocol server to an originating phone.

10 32. The device of claim 23, further including means for accessing said URL through a protocol server.

33. The device of claim 23, further includes means for accessing a web page corresponding to said URL.

34. The device of claim 24, wherein said one or more connection options are encoded using SIP.

15 35. The device of claim 24, wherein said one or more connection options correspond to a user's identity.

36. The device of claim 24, wherein said one or more connection options correspond to a user's phone number.

37. The device of claim 24, wherein said one or more connection options correspond to a user's location.

38. The device of claim 24, wherein said one or more connection options correspond to a user's schedule.

5 39. The device of claim 24, wherein said one or more connection options are modified by group scheduling software to correspond to a particular user's schedule.

40. The device of claim 25, further including means for routing a session request corresponding to said connection option to a protocol server.

10 41. The device of claim 40, further including the act of routing said session request by said protocol server to a mapping service.

42. The device of claim 25, further including means for executing said selected connection option.

43. The device of claim 42, further including means for returning an appropriate phone number to said caller by a protocol server.

15 44. The device of claim 43, further including means for a call by said protocol server, said call corresponding to said selected connection option.

45. A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for providing an improved VoIP call initiation interface, said method comprising:

placing, by the caller, a request for information regarding a party to be called;

5 returning a URL responsive to said request; and

displaying to said caller one or more connection options corresponding to said URL.

46. The device of claim 45, further including the act of choosing, by said caller, at least one of said one or more connection options.

10 47. The device of claim 46, further including the act of placing a call responsive to said one or more connection options chosen by said caller.

48. The device of claim 45, wherein said act of placing, by the caller, a request for information regarding a party to be called further includes the act of entering a phone number into an originating phone.

15 49. The device of claim 48, further including the act routing said entered phone number from said originating phone to a protocol server.

50. The device of claim 49, further including the act of routing said phone number from said protocol server to a mapping service.

51. The device of claim 45, wherein said act of returning a URL responsive to said request further includes the act of mapping, by a mapping service, said request to a URL.

52. The device of claim 51, further including the act of providing said URL to a protocol server.

53. The device of claim 52, further including the act of providing said URL by said protocol server to an originating phone.

54. The device of claim 45, wherein said act of displaying to said caller one or more connection options corresponding to said URL further includes the act of accessing said URL through a protocol server.

55. The device of claim 45, wherein said act of displaying to said caller one or more connection options corresponding to said URL further includes the act of accessing a web page corresponding to said URL.

56. The device of claim 46, wherein said one or more connection options are encoded using SIP.

57. The device of claim 46, wherein said one or more connection options correspond to a user's identity.

58. The device of claim 46, wherein said one or more connection options correspond to a user's phone number.

59. The device of claim 46, wherein said one or more connection options correspond to a user's location.

5 60. The device of claim 46, wherein said one or more connection options correspond to a user's schedule.

61. The device of claim 46, wherein said one or more connection options are modified by group scheduling software to correspond to a particular user's schedule.

10 62. The device of claim 47, wherein the act of placing a call responsive to said one or more connection options chosen by said caller further includes the act of routing a session request corresponding to said connection option to a protocol server.

63. The device of claim 62, further including the act of routing said session request by said protocol server to a mapping service.

15 64. The device of claim 47, further including the act of executing said selected connection option.

65. The device of claim 64, further including the act of returning an appropriate phone number to said caller by a protocol server.

66. The device of claim 65, further including the act of initiating a call by said protocol server, said call corresponding to said selected connection option.

67. An apparatus for providing an improved interface to a caller during the initiation of a VoIP call comprising: a web phone configured to receive a request from a caller for information regarding a party to be called and providing one or more connection options corresponding to said request.

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68. The device of claim 67, wherein said webphone is configured to allow said caller to choose at least one of said one or more connection options.

69. The device of claim 68, wherein said webphone is configured to place a call responsive to said one or more connection options chosen by said caller.

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70. The device of claim 67, wherein said webphone is configured to receive a URL responsive to said request.

71. The device of claim 70, wherein said webphone is configured to provide said caller one or more connection options corresponding to said URL.

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72. The device of claim 67, wherein said webphone is configured to allow a calling party to enter a phone number into an originating phone.

73. The device of claim 72, wherein said webphone is configured route said entered phone number from said originating phone to a protocol server.

74. The device of claim 67, wherein said webphone is configured to access said URL through a protocol server.

75. The device of claim 74, wherein said webphone is configured to access a web page corresponding to said URL.

5 76. The device of claim 75, wherein said webphone is configured to execute said one or more connection options using SIP.

77. An apparatus for providing an improved interface to a caller during the initiation of a VoIP call comprising: a system configured to receive a request placed by a caller for information regarding a party to be called; returning a URL responsive to said request; and providing to said caller one or more connection options corresponding to said URL.

10 78. The apparatus of claim 77, wherein said apparatus further includes a protocol server configured to receive said entered phone number from said originating phone.

15 79. The apparatus of claim 78, wherein said apparatus is further configured to route said phone number from said protocol server to a mapping service.

80. The apparatus of claim 77, wherein said apparatus is further configured to return a URL responsive to said request.

81. The apparatus of claim 80, wherein said apparatus is further configured to map said request to a URL.

82. The apparatus of claim 81, wherein said apparatus is further configured to provide said URL to a protocol server.

5 83. The apparatus of claim 82, wherein said apparatus is further configured to provide said URL to said originating phone.

84. The apparatus of claim 77, wherein said apparatus is further configured to place a call responsive to said one or more connection options chosen by said caller by routing a session request corresponding to said connection option to a protocol server.

10 85. The apparatus of claim 84, wherein said apparatus is further configured to route said session request by said protocol server to a mapping service.

86. The apparatus of claim 77, wherein said apparatus is further configured to return an appropriate phone number to said caller by a protocol server.

15 87. The apparatus of claim 77, wherein said apparatus is further configured to initiate a call by said protocol server, said call corresponding to said selected connection option.